

WASHINGTON POST

DATE 27 JAN 78

PAGE 1

KCIA

Korean Probe Indictments Seen

By Charles R. Babcock
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Justice Department's top prosecutor told a group of freshmen members of Congress yesterday that he expects four more criminal indictments in the South Korean influence-buying investigation, hopefully by March 1.

Members of the group of Democrats who listened to Assistant Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said after the closed meeting that evidence on an additional 15 to 20 present and former members will be turned over to a parallel House investigation for use in possible disciplinary proceedings.

In addition, Civiletti assured the members that his investigators were also pursuing leads of a possible cover-up by Nixon administration officials who may have been aware of the Korean

lobbying effort but did nothing to stop it, the members said.

Civiletti returned from Seoul recently after questioning Tongsun Park, an accused Korean agent who reportedly has told investigators that he passed out about \$1 million in cash to members of Congress between 1968 and 1975.

Civiletti has said publicly that he expected "a handful" of new indictments to result but did not fix a number.

He declined to comment on the members' reports of his remarks yesterday. "I was speaking to them in a private meeting," he said.

The Justice Department's investigation is known to be focusing on the actions of former Reps. Otto E. Passman (D-La.), William E. Min-

See KOREANS, A26, Col. 1

KOREANS, From A1

shall (R-Ohio), Cornelius Gallagher (D-N.J.) and Edwin Edwards (D-La.). Park is reported to have made cash payments to each.

One Justice Department official cautioned, however, that those expected to be indicted might not all be former members of Congress.

Civiletti has said before that he didn't expect any indictments of sitting members.

Rep. Leon Panetta (D-Calif.), chairman of the freshman group, said yesterday that he asked for the briefing because the junior members were concerned about reports that the Justice Department and internal House investigations were not cooperating.

Rep. Allen E. Ertel (D-Pa.), who has introduced a House resolution calling on the Korean government to make Park and other witnesses available to the internal investigation, said, "I wanted to emphasize to him [Civiletti] that the entire House is now in a shadow and we want to get the whole truth out."

Both said they got the impression that the Justice Department investigations would be finished when new indictments are brought. So far only former representative Richard T. Hanna (D-Calif.) has been indicted in connection with the alleged Korean campaign to ensure continued U.S. aid to the Seoul regime.

The Justice Department investigation so far has been intent on cases of criminal conduct by individual members of Congress who took illegal favors from Korean lobbyists, but has been placing increasing emphasis lately on executive branch awareness of the plan.

Panetta and Ertel said that Civiletti told the group that Justice attorneys were examining what former attorney general John N. Mitchell did with information about the alleged campaign that was available as early as 1972 from U.S. intelligence sources.

Members of Congress mentioned as having accepted money or gifts from Park said they were never warned he was a Korean agent.